



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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June 10, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: LOS ANGELES COUNTY
WATERWORKS DISTRICTS
AMEND RULES 1-L-1, 1-L-2, AND 1-H-4 OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
WATERWORKS DISTRICTS AND MARINA DEL REY WATER SYSTEM
RULES AND REGULATIONS
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 3, 4, AND 5)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This action is to authorize the Acting Director of Public Works or his designee to amend Rules 1-L-1, 1-L-2, and 1-H-4 of the Rules and Regulations of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts and Marina del Rey Water System. The amendments would increase the work limit that can be done by Waterworks District forces, also known as force account work, and clarify the language that gives the Waterworks Districts sole discretion regarding requirements for extension and placement of public water mains that are needed for new water services.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICTS AND MARINA DEL REY WATER SYSTEM:

1. Find that amending the Rules and Regulations of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts and Marina del Rey Water System is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

2. Adopt the proposed Resolutions amending Rules 1-L-1, 1-L-2, and 1-H-4 of the Rules and Regulations of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts and Marina del Rey Water System to increase the force account work limit from \$15,000 to \$100,000 per installation and to clarify the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts' discretion regarding setting requirements for extension and placement of water meter and public water mains for new water services.
3. Authorize the Acting Director of Public Works to annually review the Force Account Limit every January 1 and adjust the amount by the Construction Cost Index for the Los Angeles Region.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of this recommendation is to amend Rules 1-L-1, 1-L-2, and 1-H-4 of the Rules and Regulations of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (Districts) and Marina del Rey Water System.

The amendments to Rules 1-L-1 and 1-L-2 would increase the work limit that can be done by District forces (force account), which will improve the Districts' ability to meet customer needs by allowing District staff to perform small construction projects in a more timely and cost-effective manner than by using private contractors.

Rule 1-H-4, as currently written, does not clearly identify the Districts' authority in the placement of water meters for new water service. The amendment to Rule 1-H-4 gives the District sole discretion regarding the location of new water meters and the requirements for extensions or placement of new water mains needed to supply water to new customers.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs that we provide Organizational Effectiveness (Goal 3) and Fiscal Responsibility (Goal 4) by clarifying the Districts' discretion regarding requirements for extension and placement of public water mains, meters, and service connections for new water services and by allowing District forces to do smaller Waterworks' projects more cost-effectively and provide savings to our customers.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Adoption of the attached Resolutions will authorize the Acting Director of Public Works or his designee to revise the Districts' Rules and Regulations in accordance with Division 16, County Waterworks District Law, of the California Water Code.

Section 55333 of the California Water Code authorizes the Districts' Board, which is the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, to make changes to the Rules and Regulations.

The amendments would increase the force account work limit, which will improve the Districts' ability to meet customer needs and clarify the language that gives the District sole discretion regarding requirements for extension and placement of public water mains that are needed for new water services.

The current Force Account Limit, as stated in Rules 1-L-1 and 1-L-2 has not been raised since 1968. Since that time, the Construction Cost Index for the Los Angeles region, as reported in the *Engineering News Record*, has increased 620 percent. Due to this escalation in the cost of water-related construction materials, equipment, and salaries, the \$15,000 limit currently prevents District crews from performing small construction jobs that can be completed more cost-effectively by private contractors. Raising this limit will not affect the number of capital project construction contracts the Department of Public Works awards since these projects usually exceed \$100,000. Over the last 10 years, 2 out of 41 capital project construction contracts have been less than \$100,000 (see Attachment A).

The amendment to Rule 1-H-4 would make the requirement to place water meters in front of the served premises more definitive and would give the Districts the sole discretion regarding requirements for extension and placement of public water mains for new water services. This change is needed to ensure the Districts' staff can easily access the Districts' meters and water system facilities for operation and maintenance.

The Resolutions have been approved as to form by County Counsel.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

These actions are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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Modification of Rule 1-L-1 and Rule 1-L-2 of the Rules and Regulations raises the force account limit from \$15,000 to \$100,000 per installation and, therefore, is not a project subject to the provisions of the CEQA because it can be seen with certainty that the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment in accordance with Public Resources Code, Section 21065, and State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15378.

Modification of Rule 1-H-4 of the Rules and Regulations clarifies the Districts' discretion regarding setting requirements for extension and placement of public water mains for new water services. These extensions constitute minor alterations of existing facilities or the construction of new, small facilities pursuant to Sections 15301(b) and 15303(d) of the CEQA guidelines and pursuant to Section 302, Class 1(a) and Class 3(a), of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, and are, therefore, categorically exempt.

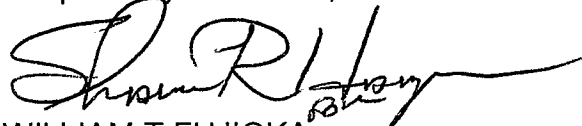
IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The amendments would increase the force account work limit, which will improve the Districts' ability to meet customer needs and clarify the language that gives the District sole discretion regarding requirements for extension and placement of public water mains that are needed for new water services.

CONCLUSION

Please return two adopted copies of this letter and two signed originals of the Resolutions to the Department of Public Works, Waterworks Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William T. Fujioka", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:DDE
AA:lr

Attachments (2)

c: County Counsel

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF
RULE 1-L-1 AND RULE 1-L-2 OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS
DISTRICTS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (hereinafter referred to as BOARD) is the governing body of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (hereinafter referred to as DISTRICTS); and

WHEREAS, Section 55333 of the California Water Code states that the DISTRICTS "may adopt and enforce all rules, regulations, and ordinances which may be necessary and proper for: (a) the administration and government of the district,..."; and

WHEREAS, the BOARD has adopted Rules and Regulations for the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (hereinafter referred to as RULES AND REGULATIONS); and

WHEREAS, the current force account limit of \$15,000 has not been raised since 1968; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Cost Index for the Los Angeles Region as reported in the *Engineering News Record* has increased 620 percent since 1968; and

WHEREAS, Section 20606 of the California Public Contracting Code permits the County to do unlimited force account work for DISTRICTS, including building and yard work, when so ordered by the BOARD; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Acting Director of Public Works or his designee is hereby authorized to amend Rule 1-L-1 and Rule 1-L-2 of the RULES AND REGULATIONS as follows:

1-L-1 WORK BY DISTRICT FORCES: The Board, pursuant to Section ~~55333~~ 20606 of the ~~County Waterworks District Law~~ Public Contracting Code of the State of California, hereby finds and ~~determines~~ that any item of work of constructing, repairing, improving, renewing, or extending District facilities estimated to cost less than \$100,000 per installation ~~can~~ may be ~~done~~ performed ~~more economically and satisfactorily by District forces~~ day labor, without letting contracts to the lowest bidder if ~~such work in any installation is estimated to cost less than \$15,000~~ the District Engineer determines that the work can be done more economically by District forces.

To account for the effects of inflation, this limit will be adjusted on January 1 of every year by the Construction Cost Index (CCI) for the Los Angeles Region as reported in the Engineering News Record and will be posted on the Districts' website.

- 1-L-2 PERFORMANCE OF WORK – PURCHASE OF MATERIALS: The Board authorizes the performance of any of the work described in Rule 1-L-1 by personnel of the District and authorizes the purchase of the materials necessary therefore, and the total cost for labor and materials ~~of which~~ is estimated to be less than ~~\$15,000~~ \$100,000 for any separate installation, ~~unless for special reasons it is advisable to do such work by contract.~~

To account for the effects of inflation, this limit will be adjusted on January 1 of every year by the Construction Cost Index (CCI) for the Los Angeles Region as reported in the Engineering News Record and will be posted on the Districts' website.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the 10th day of JUNE, 2008,
by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles as the governing body of the
Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts.



SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer of the
Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles

By 

Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RAYMOND G. FORTNER JR.
County Counsel

By 

Deputy

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE AMENDMENT OF
RULE 1-H-4 OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICTS
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (hereinafter referred to as BOARD) is the governing body of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (hereinafter referred to as DISTRICTS); and

WHEREAS, Section 55333 of the California Water Code states that the DISTRICTS "may adopt and enforce all rules, regulations, and ordinances which may be necessary and proper for: (a) the administration and government of the district,..."; and

WHEREAS, the BOARD has adopted Rules and Regulations for the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts (hereinafter referred to as RULES AND REGULATIONS); and

WHEREAS, existing Rule 1-H-4 of the RULES AND REGULATIONS allows the DISTRICTS to determine water meter locations; and

WHEREAS, it is the DISTRICTS' policy to waive meter location requirements only upon approval of the District Engineer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Acting Director of Public Works or his designee is hereby authorized to amend Rule 1-H-4 of the RULES AND REGULATIONS as follows:

1-H-4 DISTRICT WATER SERVICE LOCATION REQUIREMENTS: Each premises will only be served by the District in a District-approved manner from a water meter located in the public way or easement of the District. Service to a premises for which application for water service has been made will be provided when the premises is addressed from a public way or easement of the District in which the District will have a water main as of the time of commencement of service and either the premises has fee title frontage on that public way or District easement or has legal ingress-egress improved for vehicular access to said public way or District easement. This requirement may be waived by the District Engineer when, in the opinion of the District Engineer, physical conditions are such that compliance would be impossible or would be detrimental to District operations.

The District may, as a condition of a water main being extended in a public way or in an easement of the District, require the owner to improve the public way or easement by construction of District-approved road improvements,

including application of road surfacing where physical conditions exist, in the opinion of the District Engineer, which necessitates the paving for the purpose of the District maintaining the water main and facilities appurtenant thereto.

~~Where possible, the~~ The meter shall be located in front of the premises. Should the District require, the applicant ~~for service~~ shall pay applicable charges and make arrangements with the District for extension of a water main to serve the frontage of the applicant's premises. The District shall have sole discretion regarding requirements for extension and placement of public water mains, meters, and service connections that are needed for new water service.

Where any premises is served by more than one service connection and meter, there shall be installed, and subsequently maintained by the applicant, a check valve as approved by the District on each of the service connections except that where service connections are all located between two main line control valves, in which case no check valves are required.

Each meter serving a customer's premises will be considered separately for billing purposes and the readings of two or more meters will not be combined.

In serving a Contracting Agency through more than one service connection, each service connection will be considered separately for billing purposes and the readings of the meters at two or more such service connections will not be combined.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the 10th day of JUNE, 2008,
by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles as the governing body of the
Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts.



SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer of the
Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles

By 

Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

RAYMOND G. FORTNER JR.
County Counsel

By 

Deputy

ATTACHMENT A

PROJECT	PROJID	AWARD	Contract Amount
LA COSTA RESERVOIR	WWD2900003	18-Nov-97	\$1,111,750.00
MARINA DEL REY 24-INCH FEEDLINE PHASE 1	WWD8000010	05-Oct-99	\$2,332,961.00
10TH STREET WEST TRANSMISSION WATERMAIN, PHASE 1	WWD4004008	09-May-00	\$3,076,114.00
116TH STREET EAST AND AVENUE U DISINFECTION STATION AND WATER MAINS	WWD4024001	05-Jul-00	\$707,665.00
REGION 4 ZONE CONVERSION, PHASE 2	WWD4004003	07-Nov-00	\$593,690.00
WATER TANK SEISMIC RETROFIT, HMGP 1008 - 3154, GROUP 1	WWD2900013	09-Jan-01	\$494,900.00
WATER TANK SEISMIC RETROFIT, HMGP 1008 - 3157, GROUP 4	WWD4000001	30-Jan-01	\$481,840.00
MALIBU BRANCH FEEDER REPAIR	WWD2900010	03-Apr-01	\$398,824.00
WATER WELLS AT WELL SITES 4-61, 4-63 AND 4-64	WWD4004014	04-Sep-01	\$915,564.00
WATER TANK SEISMIC RETROFIT, HMGP 1008 - 3154, GROUP 2	WWD2900014	02-Oct-01	\$273,600.00
SUMACRIDGE BOOSTER STATION	WWD2900016	02-Oct-01	\$185,100.00
WATER TANK SEISMIC RETROFIT, HMGP 1008 - 3154, GROUP 3	WWD2900015	09-Oct-01	\$246,800.00
MARINA DEL REY 24-INCH FEEDLINE PHASE 1A	WWD8000001	18-Dec-01	\$2,037,660.00
LAS TUNAS BEACH WATER MAIN RELOCATION	WWD2900017	14-May-02	\$104,122.00
5940 DE BUTTS TERRACE STORM DRAIN	WWD2900001	02-Jul-02	\$83,000.00
10TH STREET WEST TRANSMISSION WATERMAIN, PHASE 2	WWD4004009	30-Jul-02	\$1,837,931.00
TANK SITE FENCING- NORTH MAINTENANCE AREA	WWD4004018	10-Sep-02	\$110,062.74
ROMERO CANYON ROAD WATERMAIN RELOCATION	WWD3600001	17-Dec-02	\$83,150.00
KAGEL CANYON EAST AND WEST TANK RECOATINGS	WWD2100001	11-Feb-03	\$115,263.43
TOPANGA, FERNWOOD, WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT	WWD2900007	20-May-03	\$1,426,899.00
WATER WELLS AT WELL SITES 4-62, 4-65, 4-67, AND 4-68	WWD4004022	04-Nov-03	\$1,063,829.00
WELL NO. 4-66 AND PUMP STATION MODIFICATIONS	WWD4004025	18-Nov-03	\$630,735.00
10-INCH BYPASS PIPELINE AT PCH	WWD2900012	09-Dec-03	\$940,146.00
WATER WELL AT WELL SITE 27-5	WWD4027001	06-Apr-04	\$398,405.00
WATER WELLS AT WELL SITES 4-69 AND 4-72	WWD4004026	01-Jun-04	\$619,721.00
ENCINAL CANYON ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PHASE 1	WWD2900002	29-Jun-04	\$511,739.30
EQUIPPING OF WELL NOS. 4-61, 4-63, AND 4-64	WWD4004017	29-Jun-04	\$611,655.00
OFFSITE WATER WELL HEAD FACILITIES FOR WELL NOS. 4-69 AND 4-72	WWD4004021	10-May-05	\$692,519.25
MALIBU BRANCH FEEDER REPAIRS PHASE 2	WWD2900011	30-Aug-05	\$1,321,680.00
EQUIPPING OF WATER WELLS 4-62, 4-67 AND 4-68	WWD4004029	13-Sep-05	\$897,600.00
PARTIAL ABANDONMENT OF WATER WELL NOS. 4-43, 4-54, 4-55, 4-58, AND 4-59	WWD4004030	11-Oct-05	\$608,580.00
WINDING WAY ROAD AND DRAIN EMERGENCY REPAIR	WWD2900037	08-Nov-05	\$105,116.00
WATER SECURITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	WWD4000003	13-Dec-05	\$1,852,000.00
ACTON AND ANTELOPE VALLEY DISINFECTION CONVERSION PROJECT	WWD4000004	04-Apr-06	\$6,945,610.00
OLD SUMMIT AND TIERRA SUBIDA RESERVOIRS REPAIR AND RECOATING	WWD4000001	06-Feb-07	\$406,540.00
BROAD BEACH WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT	WWD2900030	10-Apr-07	\$2,037,820.00
AS NEEDED WATER WELL DRILLING AND EQUIPPING	WWD4000005	19-Jun-07	\$8,621,843.00
(PRESSURE ZONE 3056 SYSTEM UPGRADES)	WWD4027003	06-Feb-08	\$1,030,292.00
NEW WELL NOS. 4-70 AND 4-71 AND WELLHEAD FACILITIES	WWD4004031	TBD	\$3,193,071.00
AVENUE M AND 5TH STREET EAST, WELL UTILITY SITE	WWD4004032	TBD	\$9,471,086.00
AVENUE J-4 AND 15TH STREET WEST BOOSTER PUMP STATION	WWD4004015	TBD	\$1,413,000.00